

LEGAL NOTES.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.—The death of Judge WAYNE having left a vacancy upon the bench of the Supreme Court, the president has nominated the Hon. E. ROCKWOOD HOAR, Attorney-General of the United States, for the position, but the Senate has not yet acted upon the nomination.

The Hon. ROBERT C. GRIER, of Pennsylvania, having served for more than twenty-three years on the bench of the Supreme Court, has, in consequence of increasing physical infirmities, tendered his resignation to the president, to take effect from the first of February, 1870.

The Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, formerly Attorney-General of the United States, and afterward Secretary of War in the cabinet of President Lincoln, having been nominated to the seat on the bench of the Supreme Court, about to be vacated by Judge GRIER, received the distinguished compliment from the Senate of confirmation without reference to the judiciary committee. Mr. Stanton, however, who had been in declining health for some time, did not survive to take his seat on the bench, but expired at his residence in Washington on the 24th of December, 1869.

THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES.—The Act of Congress of April 10th, 1869, (noticed ante vol. 8, N. S., 371), having gone into effect on the first Monday of December, 1869, the president nominated the following Judges of the new Circuit Courts established by the act:

First Circuit, George F. Shepley, of Maine; Second, Lewis B. Woodruff, of New York; Third, William McKennan, of Pennsylvania; Fourth, George A. Pearre, of Maryland; Fifth, William B. Woods, of Alabama; Sixth, Solomon L. Withey, of Michigan; Seventh, Thomas Drummond, of Illinois; Eighth, John F. Dillon, of Iowa; Ninth, Lorenzo Sawyer, of California.

The appointments for the fourth and ninth circuits have not yet been acted upon by the Senate; the others have been confirmed. Having been made on purely professional grounds, the appointments are excellent, and have given general satisfaction. Judge Woodruff was, at the time of his appointment, a Justice of the Court of Appeals of New York; Judge Pearre was a Judge of the Circuit Court of Maryland; Judges Withey and Drummond were the Judges of the United States District Courts for their respective districts, Judge Wood was Chancellor of the Middle Division of Alabama, and Judges Dillon and Sawyer were the chief justices of their respective States; the others have not, so far as we are aware, held any previous judicial station.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS.—The Hon. JOHN P. KNOWLES has been appointed to the District Court in the District of Rhode Island, and the Hon. WALTER R. GRESHAM to the District of Indiana, in place of the Hon. DAVID McDONALD, deceased